

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-20 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-8 and 10-20 have been rejected in the Office Action. Specifically: claims 1-4, 8, 10-14 and 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsieh (USP 6,270,325) in view of Carter (USP 3,652,186) and Wrobel (USP 4,955,791); Claims 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsieh, Carter and Wrobel in view of Obara (USP 6,379,129); and Claims 6 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hsieh, Carter and Wrobel in view of Schmider et al. (USP 5,176,509).

In response to the Examiner's rejection, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 17 of the present Application and request reconsideration of the rejection, as explained in more detail below.

Claim 1 has been amended to now recite "wherein said base and said cylindrically-shaped bearing housing are a unitary one-piece element." Claim 17 has been amended to incorporate the base limitation of claim 19 and to recite that "the base, the shield part and the bearing housing are a unitary one-piece element. None of the cited prior art relied upon by the Examiner in formulating any of the 103 rejections disclose that the base and bearing housing are a unitary, one piece element. In particular, Hsieh with reference two Fig. 1 a two-piece construction of a bearing housing and a bottom face. Hsieh explains "a bearing housing (431) that is attached to the bottom face (32) of the housing." Col. 3, lines 12-13.

Furthermore, none of the cited art shows "a shield part integrally formed on the bearing housing at an end opposite the base, the shield part extending in a radial direction towards the rotational shaft and partially enclosing the first opening of the bearing housing" as required by claim 1, or "a shield

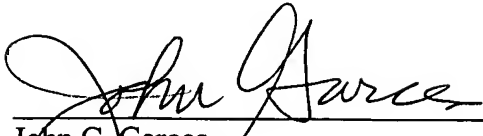
part integrally formed on the first end of the bearing housing and radially extending towards the interior of the bearing housing," as required by claim 17. In addition, in claim 17 the shield part, base and bearing housing form a unitary, one-piece element. The Examiner relies on Carter as teaching a "shield part (54&55, See fig. 4) formed on the bearing housing (49) at an end opposite the base, the shield part extending in a radial direction towards the rotational shaft (43) and partially enclosing the first opening of the bearing housing." In Fig. 4 of Carter, item 49 designates a bore 49. The bearing housing is actually identified as item 52. Item 54 is in fact a sleeve that "embraces the shaft 43 below the bearing 53 and is carried in a plate 55 bolted to the boss portion 48a." Col. 4, lines 43-45. Thus, Carter does not disclose the claimed shield part integrally formed on the bearing housing and extending in a radial direction towards the rotational shaft and partially enclosing the first opening of the bearing housing.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are all in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is urged to telephone Applicants' undersigned counsel if it will advance the prosecution of this application, or with any suggestion to resolve any condition that would impede allowance. In the event that any extension of time is required, Applicant petitions for that extension of time required to make this response timely. Kindly charge any additional fee, or credit any surplus, to Deposit Account No. 50-0675, Order No. 051319-35.

Respectfully submitted,

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